

ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

for the

Year Ending 31st December 1953

by the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. R. RHYDWEN)

and

Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. R. P. BARLOW)

ST. ASAPH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1953

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1953 in accordance with Circular 42/51 Wales.

The general state of health in the district during the year was quite satisfactory. 173 cases of infectious disease were notified as having occurred in the district during the year, an increase of 79 on 1952, the increase being almost entirely due to measles which occurs in large numbers biennially.

Once again no case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. Six deaths were attributed to Pneumonia, which is a notifiable infectious disease.

This is the sixth year in which no maternal death due to childbirth has occurred in the district. Our Infantile Mortality rate for 1953 was 17.1 per 1,000 live births, only two infants under one year of age having died during the year.

The Birth Rate for 1953 was 11.2 births per 1,000 of the population, the number of births being 117, twelve less than in 1952 and 32 less than in 1951.

Corrected for comparison with the country as a whole, our Birth Rate would be 14.6 per 1,000 of the population as compared with a national rate of 15.5 per 1,000 of the population. The need for some correction for comparative purposes is obvious when one realises the great excess of males in the district, there being some 2,000 soldiers at Kinnel Camp who are now included in our population figures.

The death rate for the district continues to be below the national rate, our Crude Death Rate being 9.9 deaths per 1,000 of the population and our corrected Comparative Death Rate being 9.6 per 1,000 of the population as compared with the national rate of 11.3 deaths per 1,000 of the population.

The Housing problem still remains, and many inhabitants of the district still occupy sub-standard property. Thirty Council houses were completed and occupied during the year and 22 private houses were also erected.

As in previous years, water shortage was a problem on occasions in the outlying parishes, Waen and Bodfari being the principal sufferers.

As I stated last year when the present water supplies to the parishes of Cwm, Bodfari, Dymeirchion, Waen and Rhualt were installed, there was no occasion to assume that by now there would be hundreds of cattle troughs drawing on those supplies. It is the fact that there is not enough water available in these supplies to adequately supply humans, cattle and market gardens in dry weather that is responsible for the present shortages.

At the time of going to Press, I am in the pleasing position of being able to state at long last that tenders have been provisionally accepted for the supply of water to these areas from the Rhyl mains. This when completed will result in an adequate and pure supply for them all the year round.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Clerk, the Sanitary Surveyor and all the other Council Officials for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. RHYDWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	23,057 acres.
Population at 1931 Census, which includes Meliden and part of Dyserth, since transferred to Prestatyn Urban District Council)	7,873
Population Registrar General's Estimate Mid-1953 ...	10,430
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book	2,658
Rateable Value	£50,952
Product of a Penny Rate	£199 19 2

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

WATER.

BODELWYDDAN, RHUDDLAN and ST. ASAPH are supplied by the Rhyl Urban District Council's Undertaking.

DYSERTH. The greater part of the parish is supplied by the Prestatyn Urban District Council's Water Undertaking.

BRYNIAU, Dyserth, is supplied from the mains of the Holywell Rural District Council's Water Undertaking, as it is a high level area.

BODFARI is supplied from works constructed by the Council. This supply is contaminated on occasion and the inhabitants have been advised to boil all drinking water.

CWM is supplied from works constructed by the Council. One source of supply (Aelwyd Ucha) fails completely during dry weather, and on these occasions the supply is augmented from the Birkenhead Corporation Water Supply via the Holywell Rural District Council Supply Mains. TREMEIRCHION is supplied from works constructed by the Council. This water supply is chlorinated, as in Summer the water has to be pumped from a polluted source. This results in a bacteriologically pure water.

RHUALLT has a piped supply derived from springs in the neighbourhood. WAEN is supplied from works constructed by the Council. The distribution of water has been much improved by the construction of new mains, and in 1953 there was no failure in the supply.

GENERAL REMARKS.

There was no severe failure of the water supply in any part of the district during the year. It was, however, necessary to restrict the consumption in Bodfari and Cwm.

The need for a pure and adequate water supply to the parishes of Bodfari, Cwm, Tremeirchion, Rhualt and Waen is as great as ever, for in a dry summer several of these parishes suffer from a water shortage and the water supply is polluted in all these districts at some time or other during the year. At the time of writing the Council has received the Welsh Board of Health's provisional approval of its scheme for the provision of an adequate and pure water supply to these parishes.

Properties supplied with water by the Council's Undertakings :—

	<i>Total No. of Houses.</i>	<i>Number supplied with water.</i>	
		<i>(a) into Houses.</i>	<i>(b) Stand Pipes.</i>
Cwm	120	107	6
Bodfari	123	77	14
Tremeirchion	187	117	19
Waen	75	70	3

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

St. Asaph and Dyserth and Rhuddlan have a sewage disposal system, though the one at Rhuddlan is overloaded and there is no disposal works there.

Bodelwyddan, Bodfari and Tremeirchion are without sewage disposal works. Outline schemes in respect of Bodelwyddan, Rhuddlan and Tremeirchion were accepted by the Council in 1948 and a Welsh Board of Health Enquiry was held at Rhuddlan during the year in respect of the work to be carried out in that parish. It is now known that approval for the laying of new sewers and the construction of a sewage disposal works at Rhuddlan has been granted.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution of rivers and streams was reported during 1953.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the areas supplied with sewers, very few privies remain. In the remainder of the district 10% of the houses have privies with fixed receptacles and 90% privies with moveable receptacles. The Council have arrangements for the removal of the night soil in certain areas.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse is removed from all parishes in the Rural District by the Council's Refuse lorries.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action was required in respect of shops and offices during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

The Maesgwilym Camp, The Pleasant View Holiday Camp and the Vale of Clwyd Holiday Camp, Rhuddlan, are licensed for the Summer months only.

The water supply to these camps is satisfactory, as are the general standards of hygiene maintained in the camps.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action was required during 1953.

SCHOOLS.

No closure due to outbreaks of infectious disease was required during 1953.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Seventy-three children under five years of age and 6 children between the ages of five and fifteen years were immunised during the year. Seventy-two other children received a reinforcing (boosting) dose.

Forty-five children under the age of fifteen years and three persons over the age of fifteen years were vaccinated for the first time during the year. In addition, 6 children between the ages of five and fifteen years, and 4 persons over fifteen years of age were revaccinated during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Welsh Regional Board has a Chest Clinic at 22 Edward Henry Street, Rhyl, for the treatment and investigation of cases or suspected cases of Tuberculosis. The Clinic is held on Friday mornings for new cases and on Friday afternoon, 2.30 p.m.—4.30 p.m., for Pneumo thorax treatment.

The nearest Sanatoria are at Llangwyfan and Penyffordd.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The nearest Clinic for the treatment of these diseases is at St. Asaph Hospital. This clinic is held on Tuesday evenings from 5.15 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. The treatment is confidential, free and inclusive of travelling expenses.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

The Flintshire County Council holds Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics at St. Asaph (Thursday p.m.), Rhyl (Wednesday p.m.) and Kimmel Camp, Bodelwyddan (Thursday p.m.).

SMALLPOX.

In the event of an outbreak of Smallpox, provision can be

made for the isolation and treatment of cases by arrangement with the Flintshire County Council and the Welsh Regional Board.

DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of large articles such as bedding can be carried out through arrangements made by the Sanitary Surveyor with the Rhyl Urban District Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. Fifty-one examinations of raw water were made during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of elderly persons in need of care and attention.

No formal action was required under this section of the Act during 1953.

HOUSING.

During 1953 the following numbers of houses were completed and occupied.

	<i>For the Local Authority.</i>	<i>Private Houses.</i>
Bodfari	—	1
Cwm	8	1
Dyserth	8	11
Rhuddlan	12	5
St. Asaph	2	4
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Total	30	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

All animals are slaughtered at the Public Abattoir, Rhyl, which is the municipally controlled centre for the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) BIRTH RATE. The total number of births credited to the District by the Registrar General during 1953 was 117, of which 65 were male and 52 female. Six of these children were illegitimate, 5 being male and 1 being female.

The Birth Rate was 11.2 per 1,000 of the population. The National Birth Rate for 1953 was 15.5 per 1,000 of the popula-

tion, but the local Birth Rate, corrected to allow for the large excess of males in the area, is 14.6 per 1,000 of the population, which is satisfactory.

There were four still-births during the year.

(b) DEATH RATE. The total number of Deaths credited to the area after allowing for inward and outward transfers was 104 — 54 of these were deaths of males and 50 deaths of females.

The Crude Death Rate for the District was 9.9 deaths per 1,000 of the population as compared with a Death Rate of 11.4 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales as a whole. Our Comparative Death Rate is even lower, being 9.6 per 1,000 of the population.

(c) INFANT MORTALITY. There were two deaths of Infants under one year during 1953. This gave an Infant Mortality Rate of 17.1 per 1,000 live births as compared with a rate of 26.8 deaths per 1,000 live births for England and Wales.

(d) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 173 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during 1953.

These consisted of:—

Scarlet Fever	17 cases.
Whooping Cough	23 „
Measles	110 „
Pneumonia	21 „
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 case.
Polionyelitis	1 „

(e) ZYMOTIC MORTALITY. Six deaths were attributed to pneumonia.

(f) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS. One death was attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, giving a mortality rate of 0.095 per 1,000 of the population as compared with a rate of 0.179 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales.

(g) TUBERCULOSIS (NON-PULMONARY). There was no death in this group.

Cases on the T.B. Register:—

December 31st, 1952.	Pulmonary 56.	Non-Pulmonary 15.
December 31st, 1953.	Pulmonary 60.	Non-Pulmonary 15.
	Increase 4.	

(h) OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES. Nil.

(j) HEART DISEASE. There were 19 male deaths and 18 female deaths from heart disease, being a total of 37 deaths.

(k) INTRACRANIAL VASCULAR LESIONS. There were thirteen deaths from this, five being deaths of men and eight being deaths of women.

(l) CANCER. Twenty-four deaths were registered as being due to cancer. Twelve were deaths of males and twelve deaths of females.

The cancer mortality rate for the district was 2.30 per 1,000 of the population as compared with the National rate of 1.994 per 1,000 of the population.

TABLE 2.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
1. Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	3	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm Bronchus, Lung ...	3	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm Breast	0	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	0	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	5
15. Leucaemia	1	0
16. Diabetes	0	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System...	5	8
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	8	3
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	4
20. Other Heart Disease	6	11
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2
22. Influenza	1	0
23. Pneumonia	2	4
24. Bronchitis	2	0
26. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	0
32. Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases...	3	1
34. All Accidents other than Motor Accidents	3	2
35. Suicide	1	1
ALL CAUSES	54	50

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1953.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Serious shortages were again experienced during the summer, the springs at Cwm, Tremeirchion and Bodfari drying up almost completely. The supply to Tremeirchion was augmented by pumping and chlorinating water from a stream.

In Bodfari and Cwm, long periods of rationing were resorted to.

During the summer many complaints were received from consumers about the lack of water.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

The control on the issue of Private Building Licences to erect houses was considerably relaxed, and the building of houses by private enterprise went on apace.

HOUSING ACT 1949.

No applications for improvement grants were received.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The Pests Operator has continued his duties with success throughout the year. Inspection of farms and other agricultural buildings continued and necessary action was taken in conjunction with the Flintshire C.A.E.C. Periodical treatment of sewers is carried out, and all notifications are immediately attended to. A total of 73 premises were visited and treated, in addition to farms.

SALVAGE.

Owing to the reduced demand for salvage, great difficulty was experienced in disposing of existing stocks, and collection was eventually discontinued and has not been resumed.

HOUSING ACT, SEC. II.

As a result of families being rehoused in Council Houses, action under this Section was taken in five cases.

In two cases the owners gave undertakings not to re-let their

premises for human habitation. In two cases proposals for reconditioning were submitted to and approved by the Council. In the remaining case a Closing Order was made prohibiting the use of the cottage for human habitation.

CAMPING.

There are now three major camping sites in the area, and two smaller ones licensed for not more than 12 structures.

The major sites are, in the main, well equipped with water supply, toilet accommodation and other necessary services. Applications were received for permission to commence two further sites in the area, but these were refused under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

During the year a new industry was commenced in the area, in the shape of a sweet factory. The firm concerned reconditioned a derelict building, installed sanitary accommodation and machinery, and commenced the production of sweets.

Several complaints were received from nearby residents of the discharge of waste matter, the presence of wasps and the burning of waste paper and cartons. These complaints were promptly dealt with by the owners, without any notice having to be served.

INSPECTIONS.

Total number of inspections and visits made	856
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases inquired into, including Scabies	20
Number of Houses Disinfected	20

DWELLINGS.

Number made fit for Habitation	4
Number of Cases of Overcrowding	—

DRAINAGE &c.

Number laid or relaid	47
Number cleaned, trapped and ventilated	31
Number of new Water Closets	12
Number of repairs to Water Closets	42
Number of new Privies and Ashpits	—
Number of Privies converted into W.C.s	—

SCAVENGING.

Number of Pail Closets emptied	3,248
Number of Ashbins emptied	52,500
Number of Ashpits emptied	377
Number of Loads of Refuse	885
Number of Tons of Refuse	2,555

REFUSE.

Number of accumulations removed	1
Number of notices in respect of new Bins	3

REFUSE TIPS.

Owing to an accident to the driver of the refuse vehicle and his prolonged absence from work, the tip attendant has spent much of his time collecting refuse.

HOUSING SURVEY.

It has again not been found possible to proceed with the Survey, except in the case of individual houses.

WATER.

Number of new connections made (all purposes) ...	5
Number of repairs, fittings, etc.	232

DAIRIES.

Number of dealers licensed	6
Number of dealers' premises in district	5
Number of dealers' premises inspected	5

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number dealt with	—
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ANIMALS.

Number of cases causing nuisance	—
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LODGING HOUSES.

Number registered	—
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CLERICAL WORK.

Number of letters received	2,018
Number of letters written	2,047
Number of Preliminary Notices served	8
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with ...	6

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Number of Abatement Notices served	6
Number of Abatement Notices complied with	4
Number of Prosecutions	1

FOOD & DRUGS.

Particulars of the samples taken under the Food & Drugs Act 1938 in the St. Asaph Rural District Council area for the year ended 31st December 1953 as supplied by the County Sanitary Inspector.

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Numbers of Samples taken.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Not Genuine or below standard.</i>
Milk	16	10	6
Dairy Produce	2	2	—
Alcoholic Drinks	2	2	—
Ice Cream	2	2	—
Sausages	4	4	—
Misc. Groceries	8	8	—
Patent Medicines	1	1	—
Cakes and Confectionery	4	4	—
	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 6

The six samples of milk reported as not being genuine were low in solids not fat, and the attention of the producers was drawn to the matter.

Details of food certified as unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>		
	<i>Number.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Boxes. Stones.</i>
National Butter		2	
Margarine		1½	
Luncheon Meat (France)	2 tins		
Veal and Ham Loaf (Dutch)	37 tins		
Shoulder Ham (Australian)	1 tin		
Tinned Ham (South Africa)		4½	
Ham Shank		3½	
Boneless Cooked Gammon (English)	2 tins		
Cooked Ham (New Zealand)	2 tins		
Shoulder Ham (Denmark)	1 tin		
Cooked Shoulder Ham (Dutch)	4 tins		
Gammon		13½	
Cooked Shoulder Ham (Germany) ...	1 tin		
Cooked Ham (South Africa)	1 tin		
Hartley's Garden Peas	2 tins		
Evaporated Full Cream Milk	28 tins		
Cream of Chicken Soup	1 tin		
Beef		163½	
Frozen Beef		135	
Minced Beef Loaf	1 tin		
Minced Meat Loaf (Australian)	1 tin		
Sausage		10	
Pork Sausage Meat		45	

Corned Beef (Australian)	2 tins		
Corned Beef (Argentine)	1 tin		
Peeled Tomatoes (Italian)	5 tins		
Pears (Australian)	1 tin		
Sardines (French Morocco)	7 tins		
Bacon		44	
Grapefruit Juice (Brit. Honduras) ...	3 tins		
Shrimps (Norwegian)	1 tin		
Mixed Hake and Cod			5
Onions		2	
Chopped Pork	1 tin		
Pineapples (Belgian)	1 jar		
Apricots (Eire)	2 jars		

RAIN GAUGE.

Diameter of funnel — 5 inches.

Height of top above ground — 12 inches.

Height of ground above sea level — 195 feet.

RHYL'S RAINFALL — 10 years average.

Average Rainfall for 10 years, in inches, is as follows:—

1943 — 26.14	1948 — 24.04
1944 — 26.99	1949 — 21.31
1945 — 19.66	1950 — 25.67
1946 — 29.30	1951 — 29.96
1947 — 25.49	1952 — 22.40
	1953 — 20.39

Yearly average for 10 years — 24.52.

WATER SAMPLES.

Weekly samples of water consumed at Tremeirchion were taken during 1953. All of these were found to be Class 1, Highly Satisfactory.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (6)	M/c. line No. (7)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authori- ties	1	39	30	Nil.	Nil.	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	34	29	1	Nil.	2
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		73	59	1	Nil.	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

PARTICULARS. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.			Numbers of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector. (5)	By H.M. Inspector. (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— (a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.

Section 110.		(Sections 110 & 111).			Section 111.		
Nature of Work.	M/c. line No.	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c).	sending lists No. of cases of default in to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises.	Notices served.	Prosecu- tions.
Wearing Apparel :— Making, etc. Cleaning and Washing..	— 13	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
			OTHER OUT- WORK—"NIL"				

